

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☒

Property Name: Cambridge Iron and Metal Company (Fells Point) Inventory Number: B-5236  
Address: 2030 Aliceanna Street, 2029 and 2031 Fountain Street Historic district: yes ☒ no  
City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21231 County: Baltimore City  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore East  
Property Owner: Fountain Realty Company, Inc. Tax Account ID Number: 1832005  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0000 Tax Map Number: 2  
Project: Red Line Project Agency: Maryland Transit Administration  
Agency Prepared By: Parsons Brinckerhoff  
Preparer's Name: Matt Manning Date Prepared: 10/1/2011  
Documentation is presented in: Enoch Pratt Library--Maryland Room, ProQuest Historical Newspapers Database, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Commission for Historical & Architectural Preservation (CHAP)  
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no  
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description

The Cambridge Iron and Metal Company (Fells Point) consists of three buildings on a 0.70-acre parcel in Baltimore City. They are all on oriented a north-south axis and are adjacent to one another, together forming a rectangular plan. The buildings are a one-story, brick office building, two-story early twentieth-century loft building, and substantially altered Italianate-style former rowhouse. Located on a block bounded by Aliceanna, S. Castle, Fountain, and S. Chester streets, the buildings occupy the block's western side, with an asphalt parking area at the more expansive eastern side that is adjacent to S. Chester Street. The buildings were constructed directly up to their facing concrete sidewalks.

The Cambridge Iron and Metal Company buildings each have distinct addresses. The building at 2030 Aliceanna Street is a one-story, rectangular plan building constructed in 1940. The unornamented building is sheltered by a flat roof with a narrow metal coping along its parapet. The roof appears to be clad with bituminous material.

The building has a south-facing, four-bay façade. The main entrance is located in the façade's east bay which projects slightly from

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MHT Comments:

Jim Stalumbo  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

6/11/12  
Date

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Reviewer, National Register Program

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the building's plane and frames a recessed entrance sheltered by the principal roof. The entrance comprises paired, wood-framed glazed doors with wire security grills. A large glass block transom is located above the two doors. A wood-faced lintel between the doors and transom displays the building number. A steel security gate spans the recessed entrance. The rest of the façade bays consist of three identical and new, vinyl-clad double-hung sash units. Each window is crowned with vinyl siding. Glass blocks flank either side of each window, with both features resting atop a stone sill. A wire mesh security grill with the top half angled outward covers each window unit. Five raised, brick bands run between the windows from the entrance bay to the façade's west end. A stone belt course spans the façade directly above the windows and the recessed entrance. Above the belt course, a tall brick face rises to the roof parapet.

The building's six-bay west elevation fronts directly onto Castle Street. The façade's brick banding and stone belt-course continue across the west elevation's two southern bays, and each bay holds windows identical to those at the façade. Unlike the mesh security grills on the façade windows, the grills at this elevation are flat. To the north of these bays, the next three bays have square window openings and the building has a different style of brick. Each of these windows has a concrete sill and a flat, mesh security grill. The southernmost of these bays has paired, vinyl-clad double-hung sash windows, and multi-light, steel sash windows occupy the other two bays. The north bay is comprised of a former opening today filled with concrete block. A small, vinyl-clad sliding sash window is centered at the top of the bay. A brick rowlock course spans the window openings, implying a continuation of the stone belt course.

The east elevation fronts a large asphalt parking area. This elevation includes a combination of vinyl-clad, double-hung sash windows and multi-light, steel sash windows. Three secondary entrances are located at this elevation. A square, brick chimney rises from the elevation's center and is flush with the wall. Pole-mounted security lights are attached to the wall above the windows and doors, and illuminate the parking area. The building's north end is adjoined to the south elevations of 2029 and 2031 Fountain Street.

The building at 2029 Fountain Street is a two-story, rectangular plan loft constructed in the 1920s. It has no discernible architectural style. The building is clad with brick and is sheltered by a flat roof that appears to be covered with bituminous material.

The building has a north-facing, three-bay façade. A former loading bay with a wide-flange steel lintel dominates this elevation, and has been filled and faced with wood. Two entrance doors, one flush metal and the other paneled metal, now fill in the former opening. The façade's west bay has a multi-light double-hung sash wood window with a wood sill. The window includes a flush wire mesh security grill and a brick segmental arch, with a former window opening occupying the opposite bay that has been filled with concrete block; its segmental brick arch remains. Three identical paired six-over-six double-hung sash wood windows occupy the second floor. The windows have narrow muntins, with a brick segmental arch crown and wood sills for each pair. A corbelled brick cornice ornaments the façade's parapet.

The building's eight-bay west elevation fronts Castle Street. Four square, vinyl-clad casement windows are present on the first floor. Each includes a brick segmental arch and a wire security grill. Near the west elevation's south end, a former opening identical to that on the façade's center bay has been filled with concrete block, and is centered with the fifth square vinyl-clad casement window at this elevation. Eight six-over-six double-hung sash wood windows with wood sills and brick segmental arches occupy the second floor. A faded painted sign between the first and second floors at the north end of the elevation advertises the "Cambridge Iron and Metal Co." and lists various types of junk and scrap metal. A painted depiction of a hand points south to the 2030 Aliceanna Street office, directing readers "around the corner."

The building at 2031 Fountain Street is a substantially altered two- and three-story Italianate style rowhouse constructed in the late

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nineteenth-century. Most of its brick walls have been covered with stucco. The three-story front section of the building has a shed roof with rubber membrane sheathing and the two-story rear portion has a shed roof.

This former rowhouse has a north facing, three-bay façade. The first floor façade has been completely altered from its rowhouse form. The east bay of the first floor holds a single flush, metal door with a raised, brick threshold. The door is located within a larger opening that has been filled with concrete block. This former opening occupies the façade's east section and rises to a wide-flange steel lintel just below the second story. Opposite the door is a single-light, vinyl-clad casement window in a wood frame. The window is located on the top half of the façade's first floor and has a brick segmental arch and wood sill.

The two upper floors have narrow window openings with brick segmental arches. The second-floor openings include six-over-six double-hung sash wood windows with thin muntins. The third-floor openings are filled and painted over. A cast iron cornice crowns the building and incorporates three rectangular attic vents that have been covered in a similar fashion to the third-floor window openings. The cornice includes dentils, decorative molding, and pierced panels.

The shed-roof section of the east elevation has two south-end openings, a first floor aluminum-framed plate-glass door with a six-over-six double hung sash wood window directly above. The flat-roofed south portion has four windows of the same type; one occupies the first floor, and three at the second floor.

Asphalt covers Aliceanna, Fountain, and S. Chester streets, but S. Castle Street is a concrete alley. A single wood utility pole occupies the narrow sidewalk. Nineteenth-century rowhouses stand along Fountain Street, and late twentieth-century townhomes are located west across S. Castle Street. Late nineteenth to early twentieth-century commercial and residential buildings occupy the area east of the property. The Baltimore Harbor waterfront is one block south across Aliceanna Street. The property is adjacent to the Fells Point and Canton communities.

#### Historic Context

Founded in 1909, the Cambridge Iron and Metal Company opened its location at Fountain and Aliceanna streets circa 1920. One of many Baltimore junk and scrap metal businesses, it served the surrounding waterfront industries including many can companies along Boston and Aliceanna streets.

When Isaac Shapiro founded the company, it was based at 2301 Cambridge Street, which gave the business its name. The original property adjoined Boston Street and was one block northeast of Canton's industrialized waterfront. By 1917, the business expanded and Shapiro purchased 2031 Fountain Street, west of the Cambridge and Boston streets property, but still just one block from the water.

The 1914 Sanborn Company fire insurance map shows seven two- to three-story wood and brick buildings concentrated on the Cambridge Iron and Metal Company block's west side. Most appear to have been former rowhouses modified for business use. Several long, wood buildings occupied the block's east side along S. Chester Street. It is probable that these buildings were still present when the Cambridge Iron and Metal Company purchased their first building on Fountain Street in 1917. Of these buildings, only one currently remains: marked as a "tenement" in the 1914 Sanborn map, the three-story rowhouse at present-day 2031 Fountain Street (2035 Fountain Street on the Sanborn map) with modest Italianate details including a cast iron decorative cornice, and a tall, narrow façade and windows.

Between 1850 and the 1910s, many Baltimore rowhouses were designed in the Italianate style. Tall windows on the first floor that progressively got shorter on each successive story emphasized the verticality of the façade. Elaborate cornices, typically supported

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on consoles and with dentil molding, crowned the buildings. Doorways featured projecting rounded or rectangular frames sometimes supported on brackets above the door. Windows were similarly ornamented with bracketed cornices or cast iron hoods. Cast iron was also incorporated in railings, balustrades, and window boxes. Working class rowhouses retained the elongated windows, but ornament was simplified. Segmental arches commonly crowned the windows and doors, leaving the cornice as the most decorative element.

The Sanborn Company's fire insurance map from 1914 shows a mix of residential and industrial uses comprised the area surrounding the Cambridge Iron and Metal Company's new location. Rowhouses occupied most of the northern and western blocks. Two large factories bordered the waterfront south of Aliceanna Street: the Southern Can Co. and D.E. Foote and Co. The Southern Can Co. manufactured both cans and metal signs; D.E. Foot and Co. was an oyster packing plant. A Pennsylvania Railroad siding followed Aliceanna Street's center. Two blocks north, a large foundry stood at the intersection of Fleet and S. Chester streets. The Southern Can Co. and D.E. Foote and Co. were part of an area known as "Canners Row" at the waterfront along Boston and Aliceanna streets. Sandwiched between the canning companies and the foundry, the Cambridge Iron and Metal Company was well-positioned to take advantage of any scrap metal those industries produced.

The business quickly expanded along the Fountain Street location when Shapiro purchased additional property in 1919 and in 1926. The Cambridge Iron and Metal Company now occupied the entire block bounded by Aliceanna, S. Castle, Fountain, and S. Chester streets. As part of their expansion, the company erected a new building at 2029 Fountain Street in the 1920s. By this time, numerous scrap metal and "junk" yards operated in Baltimore. R.L. Polk and Co.'s "Baltimore City Directory" listed over 100 junk dealers, including the Cambridge Iron and Metal Company. These scrap yards and junk dealers conducted business primarily in unused and discarded household, and industrial metals. Large, fenced yards where scrap metal was accumulated and sorted characterized the properties. After sorting scrap, the material was sent to smelters, where the metal would be melted down and eventually used to produce new parts and products.

In 1940, the Cambridge Iron and Metal Company constructed a new building at 2030 Aliceanna Street. This one-story building held the company's offices. With the three Cambridge Iron and Metal Works buildings completed at the property's west side, the scrap yard comprised the remainder of the block. The company continued to operate at this location for about 85 years until the 1990s, when it consolidated operations at its larger 901 S. Kresson Street site (B-5165).

Currently, the Fountain and Aliceanna Streets buildings house a real estate company and a Baptist church. Both tenant entrances are on the east elevation, facing the parking area. The majority of the building space is unoccupied. An asphalt parking lot has replaced the company's large scrap yard, and few indications of the property's previous use remain. Wood paneling and concrete block cover the buildings' former loading bays, and concrete block and plywood obscure some window openings. Vinyl-clad windows have replaced original awning windows at 2030 Aliceanna Street. Many of the surrounding industrial areas have been targets for redevelopment, including much of the Fells Point and Canton waterfronts. Residential condominiums and marinas now occupy the majority of Canners Row.

#### Significance Evaluation

The Cambridge Iron and Metal Company was evaluated for significance under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A, B, and C, using the guidelines set forth in the National Register Bulletin, "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation."

The Cambridge Iron and Metal Company is associated with the operations of Baltimore's industrial waterfront in the early to mid-twentieth-century; this property was not an early or pivotal example of such an operation, and is a modest and basic example of the

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small scrap yards that served Baltimore's larger manufacturing complexes. Changes to the property also greatly obscure this association. Because the Cambridge Iron and Metal Company is not known to have made any significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, the property is not eligible under Criterion A.

Research has not shown that the property is associated with the lives of individuals significant in the past. Therefore, the property is not eligible under Criterion B.

The Cambridge Iron and Metal Company is a nondescript and altered collection of early to mid-twentieth-century industrial buildings along the Fells Point and Canton waterfront. Its buildings were constructed over an extended time period, resulting in a lack of cohesion and architectural unity. The facility's buildings exhibit standard design elements and few distinctive stylistic details. As a scrap yard facility, the Cambridge Iron and Metal Company is neither an early example of its kind, nor did it introduce any design innovations that influenced later similar facilities. It is not the work of a master and exhibits common materials and forms that have been substantially altered over time. Windows and doors have been filled in or replaced with non-original materials, loading bay openings have been enclosed, and the scrap yard is no longer evident. These alterations obscure the original design intent and diminish its integrity. The Cambridge Iron and Metal Company is not a good example of an early twentieth-century urban industrial complex. Therefore, the property is not eligible under Criterion C.

The Cambridge Iron and Metal Company was not evaluated for eligibility under Criterion D as part of this determination.

Based on the evaluated criteria, the Cambridge Iron and Metal Company is not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

#### Works Consulted

"2 Dealers Tell of Scrap Sales: Say They Get Highest Prices From Luria Brothers." The Baltimore Sun. 28 November 1956, p. 44.

Alexander, Robert L. "Baltimore Row House of the Early Nineteenth Century." The University of Iowa Press. 1975.

"Classified Ad 26." The Baltimore Sun. 9 November 1920, p. 21.

R.L. Polk and Co.'s "Baltimore City Directory"

Hayward, Mary Ellen and Charles Belfoure. The Baltimore Rowhouse. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, c1999.

"Isaac Shapiro's Rites Are Held." The Baltimore Sun. 15 May 1963, p. 23.

"OPA Given Injunctions Against Two Concerns." The Baltimore Sun. 3 September 1944, p. 8.

The Sanborn Company fire insurance maps, 1901, 1914, and 1951.

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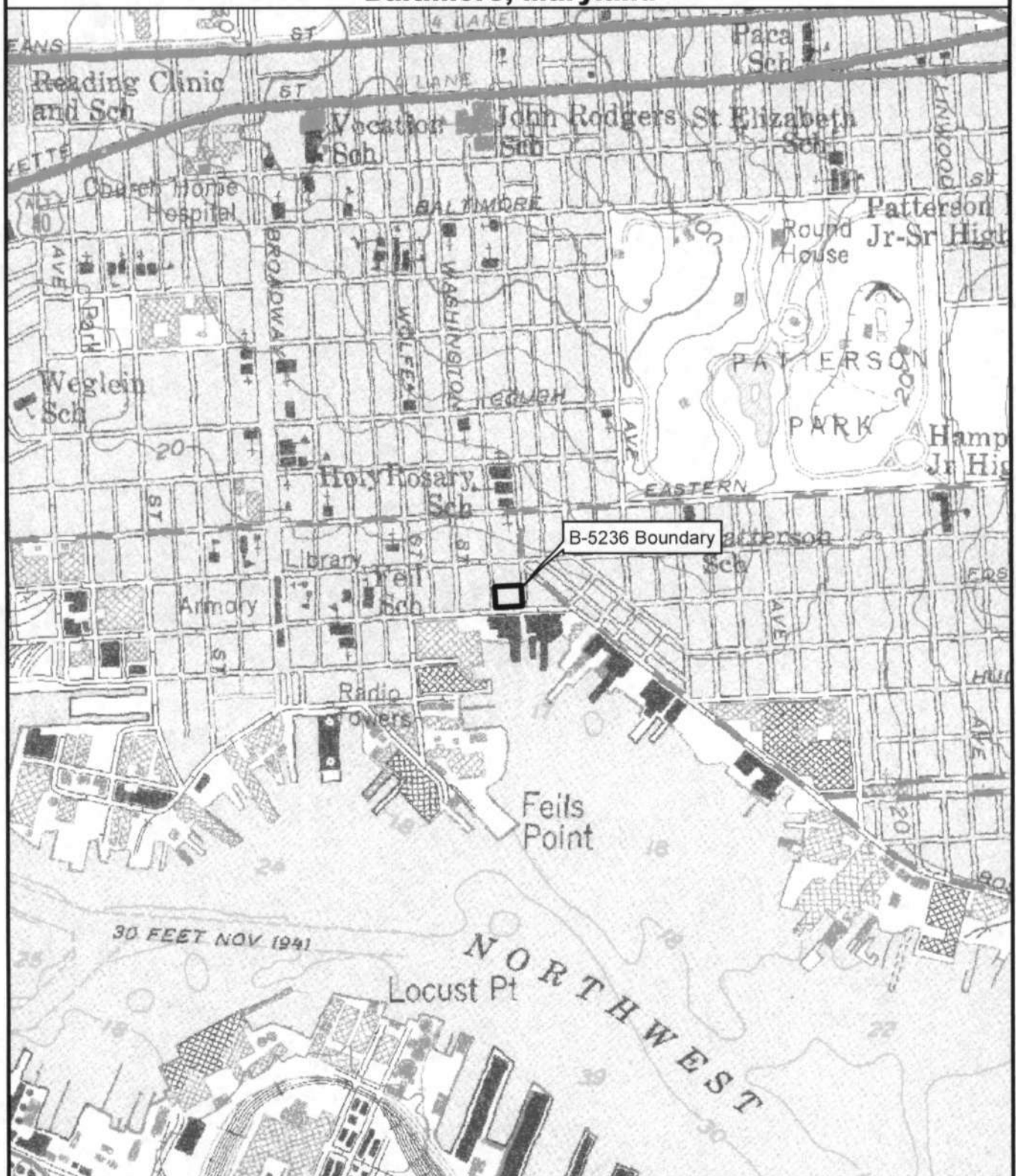
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**Cambridge Iron & Metal Company (Fells Point) (B-5236)**  
**2030 Aliceanna Street, 2029 and 2031 Fountain Street**  
**Baltimore, Maryland**



**Location Map**

0 500 1,000 2,000  
Feet

May 2012

**Cambridge Iron & Metal Company (Fells Point) (B-5236)**  
**2030 Aliceanna Street, 2029 and 2031 Fountain Street**  
**Baltimore, Maryland**



**Site Plan**

0 50 100 200  
Feet

May 2012

See "Architectural Description" section in the DOE Form for key to numbers.

PHOTO LOG

**B-5236, Cambridge Iron and Metal Company (Fells Point)**

B-5236\_2011-09-12\_01

-South façade, east elevation

B-5236\_2011-09-12\_02

-North elevation, west elevation

B-5236\_2011-09-12\_03

-North elevation, east elevation

B-5236\_2011-09-12\_04

-West elevation

B-5236\_2011-09-12\_05

-West elevation

B-5236\_2011-09-12\_06

-West elevation detail

HP 100 Gray Photo ink on HP glossy premium plus photo paper. CD-R Gold.





B-5234

Cambridge Iron and Metal Company (Fells Point)  
2030 Alameda Street

Baltimore City, MD

C. Taniguchi

9/12/11

South facade, east elevation

1/6



B-5236

Cambridge Iron and Metal Company (Fell's Point)  
2029, 2031 Fountain Street

Baltimore City, MD

C. Taniguchi

9/12/11

North elevation, west elevation

2/6





B-5236

Cambridge Iron and Metal Company (K/15 Point)  
2029, 2031 Fountain Street

Baltimore City, MD

CTaniguchi

9/12/11

North elevation, East elevation

3/6



B-5236

Cambridge Iron and Metal Company (Kell's Point)  
2029 Fountain Street

Baltimore City, MD

C. Taniguchi

9/12/11

West Elevation

4/6





B-9236

Cambridge Iron and Metal Company (Felix Point)  
2030 Aliceanna Street

Baltimore City, MD

C. Taniguchi

9/12/11

West elevation

5/16



B-5236

Cambridge Iron and Metal Company (Fells Point)

2029 Fountain Street

Baltimore City, MD

C. T. Triguera

9/12/11

West elevation detail

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